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ACTION EUR-12INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 OODE-00 H-01  
NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-06 PM-09 PA-01  
OMB-01 INRE-00 SMS-01 SAL-01 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02  
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5043

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL Leningrad

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION JSNATO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/123

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10005

E.O. 12065: SDS 7/18/87 (MCCALL, SHERROD) OR-M

TAGS: PINR, PEPR, UR, AF

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV BEGINS CRIMEA MEETINGS WITH BABRAK  
KARMAL SESSION

1. (C) ENTIRE TEXT.

2. BREZHNEV BEGAN HIS ANNUAL ROUND OF CRIMEA MEETINGS  
JULY 17 WITH A SESSION WITH AFGHAN LEADER BABRAK KARMAL.  
PRAYDA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT: HUSAK HAS ALSO ARRIVED IN  
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THE SOVIET UNION FOR A VACATION. THERE IS NO INDICATION

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AS YET WHEN HE WILL MEET WITH BREZHNEV OR IF A POST-POLISH PARTY CONGRESS SUMMIT IS PLANNED. THE TASS RELEASE ON THE BABRAK KARMAL MEETING CARRIED IN TODAY'S PRESS WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL; BREZHNEV PREDICTABLY BLAMED THE U.S. FOR WORLD TENSIONS AND THE TWO SIDES CALLED FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION "AROUND AFGHANISTAN" BASED ON THE AFGHAN AND SOVIET PROPOSALS. THE RELEASE DID NOT MENTION THE EC INITIATIVE ON AFGHANISTAN.

3. JULY 17 VREMYA TV NEWS COVERAGE OF THE CRIMEA MEETING BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND BABRAK KARMAL DISPLAYED FIVE BLACK AND WHITE TASS PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MEETING WHILE THE NEWSCASTER READ FROM TASS STATEMENT, REPRINTED IN JULY 18 PRAYDA AND OTHER CENTRAL NEWSPAPERS, ON THE TALKS. THE PHOTOS INCLUDE ONE SHOT OF BREZHNEV AND KARMAL SHAKING HANDS, WITH BREZHNEV STARING OFF INTO SPACE ABOVE KARMAL'S HEAD AND KARMAL HOLDING BREZHNEV'S WRIST, AS THOUGH DRAWING BREZHNEV'S OUTSTRETCHED HAND TO HIS OWN (THAT PHOTO WAS REPRINTED IN KRASNAYA ZVEZDA). BREZHNEV IN THE OTHER PHOTOS APPEARED RELATIVELY ALERT. NO OTHER SOVIET LEADERS HAVE BEEN REPORTED THUS FAR AS HAVING PARTICIPATED ALTHOUGH ONE INDIVIDUAL PICTURED IN THE BACKGROUND OF A TASS PHOTO CARRIED IN PRAYDA COULD BE CHERNENKO.

4. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. MATLOCK

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